

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Thomas Walsh, Sr. was born and raised in South Dakota calling Sioux Falls home for over 40 years and is a graduate of Augustana University in Sioux Falls. He and his wife, Kathy, are blessed with four children and eight grandchildren; and,

*Whereas*, Tom opened the first Burger King restaurant in South Dakota in 1974 and since that time has developed over 50 Burger King Restaurants across South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Dakota King is consistently recognized as one of the top franchisees in the Burger King organization. In addition to the restaurant industry, Tom recently opened Great Life Fitness, an innovative business model that has breathed new life into golf, fitness, and bowling venues throughout the Sioux Empire, quickly growing to over 11,000 members. This, in addition to being a founding partner of the Sioux Falls Skyforce and Dakota Bowl, is very fitting for his personal motto of "Work Hard, Play Hard"; and,

*Whereas*, Tom has strived to give back to the communities that have provided endless opportunities. He is involved in more than 300 charitable and non-profit programs. Under his leadership, South Dakota's Make-A-Wish Foundation became the fifth largest chapter in the United States. The Los Cabos Children's Foundation, founded by Tom in 2002, is a shining example of how he shares his love and compassion for children. Los Cabos Children's Foundation provides medical, education, and humanitarian assistance to children and families in Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, and throughout Mexico. In recognition of his accomplishments and generosity, Tom was inducted into the prestigious South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2009; and,

*Whereas*, Tom, a deserving recipient of the South Dakota Sales and Marketing Executive of the Year Award for 2016, will receive this honor on February 23, 2016:

*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 23, 2016, as

## **THOMAS WALSH, SR. DAY**

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

*Dennis Daugaard*  
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:  
*Shantel Krebs*

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State